(i) increase in depreciation on account of substantial capital additions.

(ii) increase in amortisation of exploration expenditure on account of step-up in exploratory activities.

(iii) increase in cost of production of crude oil and natural gas due to the increased requirement of inputs from the ageing oil fields.

(iv) increase in cost due to general inflation.

(v) frequent bandhs and strikes and general disturbed industrial climate in North Eastern region

OIL is taking necessary steps to contain the rising cost by improving operational efficiency in drilling and production functions, by controlling administrative revenue expenditure and tone up management and administration It is expected that the productivity of the Company will improve with improvement in law and order situation in Assam.

Recommendations of the working group on private sector participation in power production

868. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 22 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th July, 1987 and state :

(a) whether Government have since accepted the recommendations of the working group set up to examine the modalities of participation by the private sector in power production; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the recommendations made by the group and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b) The Report of the Working Group is receiving consideration of government.

Public sector drug units in West Bengal

869. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of public sector drug units in West Bengal and what are the details of their capital and production by each unit during the last three years as also of their profit or loss account;

(b) whether any marketing strategy has been evolved for these drug units;

(c) whether production of several popular products manufactured by these units has been stopped;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what are the names of the popular Cosmetic products the production of which has been discontinued by M/s. Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited, Calcutta ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) A statement is attached (*See* below).

(b) As a part of their Rehabilitation plans, these companies have been instructed to re-orient their marketing strategies so as to ensure fulfilment of their sales targets and to attain higher market share. For this purpose promotional efforts are being given a new thrust.

(c) and (d) After review of their product mix, production of a few items was discontinued from time to time mainly on account of (i) low volume of sales due to dwindling demand and (ii) negative returns in some cases.

(e) Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited stopped production of the following cosmetic products long back :

Lolita Telcum powder, Smith Cantheridine hair tonic, Teamc After Shave Lotion, Lanapage Audecoloque, Esude Coloque, Lavender Boquette, Eaude Toilet.